

## Peace promised

*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

*John 14:27*

As Jesus was embarking on the most troubling and excruciating path that any man has ever walked, He comforted His bewildered disciples with this promise of His peace. This very word implies the state of His own mind and soul at that point. He knew what was immediately ahead. He was about to endure such contradiction of sinners against Himself, as He would bear the sins of the world in His own body. Yet He spent these last moments before His agony, betrayal, arrest, abuse, and crucifixion, preparing His friends for the ordeal. Here as He concluded initially introducing them to the concept of the coming Holy Spirit and His continuing ministry to them, He clearly identifies the peace to be brought by the Comforter, who would be sent from the Father, to be His peace. For as all the fullness of the Godhead dwells within Him bodily, His power to sustain peace was sufficient for both Him and them. He therefore had the authority to promise to leave it and give it unto them.

His peace is the kind that would keep them through the experience of watching all that was about to happen to Him, in contrast to all their hopes and expectations of Him to that point. In the next few hours, they would be tossed into swirling confusion and an experience with which they had never been acquainted, and therefore would have no clue concerning what they should do next. We are not provided many details of their attitudes or states of mind, except to know that they mostly forsook Him and fled, and after His death remained hidden in the upper room. Yet the power of His resurrection did ultimately deliver that promised peace to them, and in so doing attested to its power to keep them in His care even when it seemed that they had lost Him. So Jesus promised that His peace was not as the world's, which at best is only temporary and circumstantial. His peace sustains even through the painful and the unknown, when we may not be sure what we are able to endure. Because He lives, we who are His shall live also, and in that hope are sustained by the peace of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.